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2006

Central Committee

World Council of Churches

Minutes of the Fifty-Fifth Meeting

Porto Alegre, Brazil

22 – 23 February 2006

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1. OPENING ACTIONS

The Central Committee met in **closed decision session**.

1.1 Call to order, prayer and welcome

The General Secretary, presiding, called the meeting to order at 7.00pm on 22 February 2006 and invited Rev. Dr Ofelia Ortega to lead in prayer. He then congratulated the members on their election or re-election, and said that he looked forward to working with them in the coming years.

1.2 Roll call and seating of substitutes

The General Secretary called the roll. Nearly all members were present. The following substitutes were agreed, at this or the following session, and seated as voting members for the present meeting:

Rev. Garland Pierce to replace Bishop McKinley Young
HG Bishop Daniel to replace Bishop Youannes
Rev. Dr Andrea Zaki to replace Rev. Dr Safwat Nagieb Ghobriel El Baiady
Bishop Epting to replace Ms Sarah Harte
Rev. Grace Mwangi to replace Dr Agnes Abuom
Rev. Dr Risto Cantell to replace Bishop Simo Peura
Ms Tara Fitzpatrick for Bishop Sally Dyck
Rev. Margarida F. de Souza Robeiro for Ms Magali do Nascimento Cunha
Ms Ming-Min Lin Cheng had sent her apology for absence.

The question was raised concerning who could be accepted as a substitute and for how long.

The General Secretary, referring to Rule VI. 1 (c), explained that a substitute should be from the same church as the person substituted and could be appointed for the whole or for part of a Central Committee meeting.

1.3 Agenda for the meeting

The General Secretary outlined the agenda for the meeting. The main business at this first session was the election of the Nominations Committee of the Central Committee, as was required by Rule VII. The main task of the Nominations Committee at this meeting was to (a) nominate persons from among the members of the Central Committee for the offices of Moderator and Vice-Moderator or Vice-Moderators of the Central Committee, and (b) nominate members of the Executive Committee of the Central Committee. The Nominations Committee would present these nominations, and also its proposals on nominations to consultative bodies made by the former Executive Committee, to the Central Committee at its session the following day.

2. ELECTION OF THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

He then read out a slate of names for consideration by the Central Committee:

Africa

Most Rev. Dr Robert Aboagye-Mensah

Very Rev. Nangula Kathindi

Rev. Itessa Gobena Molte

Asia

Prof. Dr Seong-Won Park

Rev. W.P. Ebenezer Joseph

Ms Sanchita Kisku

Caribbean

Rev. Dr Paul Gardner

Europe

Bischof Dr Martin Hein

Dean Anders Gadegaard

Ms Krystyna Mlynkova

Latin America

Pastor Hector O. Petrecca

North America

Rev. Robina Winbush

Rev. Dr Sharon Watkins

Rev. Gretchen Schoon-Tanis

Pacific

Pastor Hnoiija Jean Wete

Eastern Orthodox

Mag. Emenuela Larentzakis

Fr Mikhail Goundiaev

Dr Audeh Quawas

Rev. Dr Michael Tita

Oriental Orthodox

Bishop Nareg Alemeztian

Metr. Mor Ostadheos Matta

Youth

Mr Aaro P.S. Rytönen

Ms Geraldine Varea

It was noted that the Rev. Itessa Gobena was not present, and the African members present proposed Pastor Elisée Musemakwell in his place.

The General Secretary pointed out that the members of the Nominations Committee were not eligible for nomination as Moderator, Vice-Moderator, or member of the Executive Committee.

Discussion

There was some discussion on the term of the Nominations Committee of the Central Committee. Was it only for the duration of the present meeting, or for the whole of the life of the present Central Committee?

The General Secretary explained that the Nominations Committee remained in office as a standing committee of the Central Committee throughout the existence of the present Central Committee, although it met only during Central Committee meetings. According to Rule VII.2, in between meetings of

the Central Committee the Executive Committee shall act as the Nominations Committee of the Central Committee.

There was also discussion on the other functions of the Nominations Committee: (c) nominate a person for the office of president to fill the unexpired term should a vacancy occur in the presidium between assemblies; (d) nominate members of committees, commissions and boards; and (e) make recommendations regarding the election of persons proposed for staff positions under Rule XII.3.

The General Secretary explained that actions under Rule VII.1 (c) and (e) were infrequent. The Central Committee would act under (d) in the second session of the present meeting on the recommendation of the former Executive Committee, acting under Rule VII.2.

The Central Committee **agreed by consensus** to appoint the Nominations Committee as proposed by the General Secretary with the one change noted above. The Nominations Committee would itself appoint its moderator.

3. NOMINATIONS TO CONSULTATIVE BODIES

The General Secretary then presented a paper 'Nominations to Consultative Bodies' prepared by the former Executive Committee, acting under Rule VII.2. It contained names proposed for the Faith and Order Standing Commission, and for the Core Group of the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism, the Core Group of the Bossey Board, and the Core Group of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs. They were now presented to the Central Committee for consideration and approval.

The nomination of full commissions/board to replace the core groups would be made by the Nominations Committee to the first full meeting of the Central Committee in August/September 2006.

He stated that the list for the Faith and Order Standing Commission had resulted from a long process of consultation before the Assembly and had been thoroughly scrutinized by the former Executive Committee.

The Central Committee **referred** the paper 'Nominations to Consultative Bodies' to the Nominations Committee for consideration and recommendation.

The General Secretary gave details of the second session the following day and closed the first session.

4. REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The Central Committee met again in **closed decision session** on 23 February 2006.

Dr Mary Tanner, presiding, called the meeting to order at 8.30pm. She invited members to join her in silent prayer and then herself led in prayer.

Dr Tanner then invited Dean Anders Gadegaard, whom the Nominations Committee had appointed its moderator, to present the committee's report.

Dean Gadegaard, introducing the report, said that the Nominations Committee had met four times since their appointment the previous day.

4.1 Election of the Moderator

Dean Gadegaard then informed the Central Committee that the Nominations Committee had **decided by consensus** (with one objection) to nominate Rev. Dr Walter Altmann, of the Evangelical Church of Lutheran Confession in Brazil, as Moderator of the Central Committee.

Dr Tanner invited discussion.

At the request of the meeting, Dean Gadegaard gave further details. Dr Altmann's leadership qualities had been evident in the Assembly just past. Dean Gadegaard further read out a brief curriculum vitae of Dr Altmann, giving details of posts held and his academic work and publications.

There was some discussion as to whether the Central Committee should at this stage be informed of the Nomination Committee's nominees for the two posts of Vice-Moderator and for the Executive Committee. Thus, as they proceeded to the election, the Central Committee would be aware of the balances among the nominees.

At that point the full written report of the Nominations Committee was distributed. It was, however, decided that consideration of more than one category at a time would be confusing: the Moderator should be elected first, then the Vice-Moderators, and then the Executive Committee.

Dr Tanner enquired whether the meeting wished to conduct the elections by ballot, in accordance with Rule VII.3.

The Central Committee **decided by consensus**, also in accordance with Rule VII.3, to conduct the elections by show of cards. None the less, those nominated could not be required to leave as the elections took place, as they themselves had a vote.

Dr Tanner enquired if the meeting was ready to move to the election of Moderator. The meeting indicated that it was ready.

Dr Tanner invited members to vote on the proposal of the Nominations Committee that Rev. Dr Walter Altmann be elected Moderator.

The overwhelming majority **voted in favour** (there were six votes against and one abstention).

Dr Tanner declared Dr Altmann elected as Moderator and congratulated him on his election [applause].

4.2 Election of Vice-Moderators

Dean Gadegaard then informed the Central Committee that the Nominations Committee had **decided by consensus** to nominate Metropolitan Professor Dr Gennadios of Sassima, of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and Rev. Dr Margaretha M. Hendriks-Ririmasse, of the Gereja Protestan Maluku, Indonesia, as Vice-Moderators of the Central Committee.

As far as was possible, in the nomination of Moderator and Vice-Moderators, they had taken balances into account. Among the three, there was one Orthodox and one woman. They were aware that all three were ordained.

Dr Tanner invited discussion.

Concern was expressed that there was no African within the three nominated.

Dean Gadegaard reminded the members that the General Secretary, who was also an Officer, was African.

Concern was also expressed that the Asian President, appointed by the Assembly was Indonesian, and now a further Indonesian was also being proposed for Vice-Moderator.

Dean Gadegaard pointed out that the Presidents are not members of the Executive Committee and that there was wide regional spread in the Asian names being proposed for the Executive Committee.

Concern was also expressed that there had been insufficient consultation with the regions, and that possible names had not been discussed at the regional meetings during the Assembly.

Dean Gadegaard responded that the churches and the regions had had the opportunity to propose names. The Nominations Committee had not invented the names themselves.

The General Secretary added that the churches and regions did not always respond to the invitation to suggest names.

A proposal was made, and seconded, that Ms Carmencita Karagdag, Philippines Independent Church, replace Rev. Dr Margaretha Hendriks-Ririmasse as a proposed Vice-Moderator.

Dr Tanner enquired if the meeting wished to vote on proposals for the Vice-Moderators by ballot. The meeting indicated that it wished to vote by show of cards.

The Central Committee overwhelmingly **voted against** the proposal. The name of Dr Hendriks-Ririmasse thus remained as one of the two names nominated for Vice-Moderator.

Concern was then expressed that, if Metropolitan Gennadios were elected Vice-Moderator, he would then be holding two key positions: Vice-Moderator of the Central Committee and Moderator of the Faith and Order Commission. Would that put Faith and Order in a difficult position, with its Moderator having to resign? It was observed, however, that the Central Committee had no competence to decide who should be the Moderator of the Faith and Order Commission.

A proposal was made, and seconded, that Ms Anne Glynn-Mackoul, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East, replace Metropolitan Gennadios as a proposed Vice-Moderator.

Ms Glynn-Mackoul declined the nomination.

A proposal was made, and seconded, that the Very Rev. Leonid Kishkovsky, Orthodox Church in America, replace Metropolitan Gennadios as a proposed Vice-Moderator.

Fr Kishkovsky declined the nomination.

Dr Tanner enquired if the meeting was ready to proceed to vote on the proposal. The meeting indicated that it was ready.

Dr Tanner thus invited members to vote by show of cards on the proposal of the Nominations Committee that Metropolitan Gennadios and Dr Hendriks-Ririmasse be elected Vice-Moderators of the Central Committee.

The overwhelming majority **voted in favour** (with none against and one abstention) and Dr Tanner declared Metropolitan Gennadios and Dr Hendriks-Ririmasse elected as Vice-Moderators.

Dr Tanner then invited Dr Altmann, as Moderator of the Central Committee, to preside.

Dr Altmann, presiding, expressed his deep gratitude to the Central Committee for electing him as its Moderator. When first approached, he had hesitated, because he had not hitherto been a member of the Central Committee. He was confident of members' support and prayers and would do his best to serve the WCC as its Moderator [applause].

Dr Altmann then invited Dean Gadegaard to continue his presentation of the Nominations Committee's Report.

Dean Gadegaard presented the report on nominations to consultative bodies. The Nominations Committee had considered the nominations forwarded to the Central Committee by the former Executive Committee. An initial discussion took place (reported below in 4.4).

A request was made at this point that, having elected the Moderator and Vice-Moderators, the Central Committee should now proceed to the election of the Executive Committee. There was widespread support for the proposal and Dr Altmann acceded to the request.

4.3 Election of the Executive Committee

Dr Altmann invited Dean Gadegaard to present the Nominations Committee's nominees for the Executive Committee.

Dean Gadegaard presented the proposed list of members of the Executive Committee. The Nominations Committee had **approved by consensus** each group of names under their category of region or communion.

AFRICA

Dr Agnes Abuom, Anglican Church of Kenya

Bishop Ivan Manuel Abrahams, Methodist Church of Southern Africa (South Africa)

Pastor Antonio Pedro Malungo, Evangelical Reformed Church of Angola

Ms Iyabo Oyekola, Church of the Lord (Aladura) Worldwide (Nigeria)

ASIA

Ms Hae-Sun Jung, Korean Methodist Church

Bishop Samuel R. Azariah, Church of Pakistan

CARIBBEAN

Ms Nerissa Celestine, Church in the Province of the West Indies (Grenada)

EUROPE

Bischof Dr Rolf Koppe, Evangelical Church in Germany

Ms Inger Aasa-Marklund, Church of Sweden

Mr Graham G. McGeoch, Church of Scotland

NORTH AMERICA

Ms Carmen Rae Lansdowne, United Church of Canada

Rev. Dr Tyrone Pitts, Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. (USA)

Rev. Dr Larry Pickens, United Methodist Church (USA)

PACIFIC

Rev. Sanele Faasua Lavatai, Methodist Church of Samoa

EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCHES

Bishop Dr Hilarion of Vienna and Austria (Alfeyev), Russian Orthodox Church

Archbishop Nifon of Targoviste, Romanian Orthodox Church

Bishop Dr Vasilios of Trimithus (Karayiannis), Church of Cyprus

Ms Outi Vasko, Orthodox Church of Finland

ORIENTAL ORTHODOX CHURCHES

Metropolitan Bishoy, Coptic Orthodox Church (Egypt)

Bishop Vicken Aykazian, Armenian Apostolic Church (Holy See of Etchmiadzin) (USA)

A question was raised about there being insufficient women among the proposed names under the Orthodox categories.

Dean Gadegaard, responding, quoted a paragraph from the Nominations Committee's report:

In all cases the endorsement of the churches was considered. In two cases (those of the Eastern and Oriental Orthodox) the committee notes that in the end we gave weight to church endorsement over balances. We note our distress that there is not at least one woman per region/communion. We encourage all regions/communions in the future to observe the balances.

Concern was expressed at the absence of representation from the Middle East Region, particularly that of Protestant minorities, for example in Egypt.

The General Secretary explained that, although under geographical distribution the Middle East (which included Egypt) did not appear on the proposed list, it was in fact covered under the Orthodox category. The Central Committee was satisfied with that explanation.

A proposal was made, and seconded, that Ms Anne Glynn-Mackoul replace Bishop Dr Vasilios Karayiannis under the Eastern Orthodox category in the Executive Committee.

In the ensuing discussion it was stated that her church, the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East, had agreed that it was content with not having a member of the Executive Committee this time round. It was a rotating position agreed within the Eastern Orthodox family, and it was now

the turn of Dr Karayiannis' church. That had been agreed within the Nominations Committee.

Dr Altmann enquired if the meeting was ready to proceed to a vote. The meeting indicated that it was ready.

Dr Altmann thus invited members to vote by show of cards on the proposal that Ms Glynn-Mackoul replace Dr Karayiannis as a proposed member of the Executive Committee.

The Central Committee **voted against** the proposal. The name of Dr Karayiannis thus remained on the list of proposed Executive Committee members.

A proposal was made, and seconded, that Rev. Ying Gao, China Christian Council, replace Ms Hae Sun Jung, Korean Methodist Church, as a proposed member of the Executive Committee. However, since Rev. Ying Gao was not present, her acceptance could not be obtained and the proposal was not voted on. The name of Ms Hae Sun Jung thus remained on the list of proposed Executive Committee members.

A question was raised about the continuing representation of Latin America on the Executive Committee. The original list of 23 names prepared by the Nominations Committee had included the names of Dr Altmann, Metropolitan Gennadios and Dr Hendriks-Ririmasse. After the election of the Moderator and Vice-Moderators, they had been removed from the list, leaving the twenty names proposed for election to the Executive Committee (Rule VIII, 1, (a)). Latin America, for which only one name (Dr Altmann) had been proposed, was now left without representation on the Executive Committee. However, it was noted that the Moderator and Vice-Moderators are ex-officio members of the Executive Committee (Rule VIII, 1, (a)) and thus Latin America continued to be represented in the person of Dr Altmann.

Dr Altmann, acknowledging the problem, undertook that the matter would be considered at a future meeting of the Central Committee.

Dr Altmann then enquired if the meeting was ready to proceed to a vote. The meeting indicated that it was ready. He thus invited members to vote by show of cards their acceptance of the proposed list of Executive Committee members.

The Central Committee **voted in favour** of the proposed list and Dr Altmann declared the Executive Committee elected.

In its report the Nominations Committee had made a comment to the Central Committee concerning the process by which names for the Moderator, Vice-Moderators and Executive Committee come to them. The comment was:

By consensus we agree that the process for bringing names from staff to the Nominations Committee needs to be undertaken with greater transparency in the future, particularly in matters of pre-arranged cycling of churches for one spot.

The Central Committee **noted** the comment.

4.4 Nominations to Consultative Bodies

Dean Gadegaard resumed presentation of the report of the Nominations Committee on nominations to Consultative Bodies.

4.4.1 Faith and Order Standing Commission

The former Executive Committee's recommendation to the Central Committee was:

Africa

Rev. Dr Gideon Oshitelu, Church of the Lord (Aladura) Worldwide, Nigeria

Ms Sarah Kaulule, United Church of Zambia

Rev. Dr Anyambod Anya, Presbyterian Church in Cameroon

Asia

Rev. Dr Hermen Shastri, Methodist Church in Malaysia

Dr Mabel Athawale, Church of North India

Rev. Dr Richard Treloar, Anglican Church in Australia/Uniting Church Australia

Caribbean

Rev. Neville Callam, Jamaica Baptist Union

Europe

Rev. Dr Susan Durber, United Reformed Church (UK)

Prof. Dr Ulrike Link-Wieczorek, Evangelical Church in Germany

Rev. Dr Anne-Louise Erickson, Church of Sweden

Rt Rev. John Hind, Church of England

Metr. Dr Gennadios of Sassima, Ecumenical Patriarchate (Moderator)

Dr Dimitra Koukura, Ecumenical Patriarchate

Rev. Dr Viorel Ionita, Romanian Orthodox Church

Bishop Vasilios, Church of Cyprus

Rev. Dr André Birmelé, Church of the Augsburg Confession of Alsace and Lorraine, France

Dr Barbara Hallensleben, Roman Catholic Church

Bishop Dr Hilarion Alfeyev, Russian Orthodox Church

Bishop Nathan (Ohanisyan), Armenian Apostolic Church (Etchmiadzin)

Latin America

Rev. Dr Pablo Andiñach, Evangelical Methodist Church of Argentina

Dr Valburga Schmiedt Streck, Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil

Middle East

Rev. Dr Frans Bouwen, Roman Catholic Church

Metr. Bishoy, Coptic Orthodox Church, Egypt

Archbishop Aristarchos, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate, Jerusalem

North America

Rev. Dr Lisa Wang, Anglican Church of Canada

Rev. Dr Richard Lowery, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), USA

Rev. Dr Sarah Lancaster, United Methodist Church, USA

Rev. Dr William Henn, Roman Catholic Church

Rev. Dr Katie Cannon, Presbyterian Church (USA) - withdrew on 18.01.06

Pacific

Rev. Kitiona Tausi, Tuvalu Christian Church

The recommendation of the Nominations Committee, agreed by consensus, was that the Central Committee adopt the slate for the Faith and Order Standing Committee as proposed, but with the following comments:

- We note that with regard to the Faith and Order Standing Commission, the Central Committee Nominations Committee is essentially a formality. We are asked to simply forward the report of the Faith and Order Nominating Committee as approved by the immediate past Executive Committee. We have done so.
- We note, however, that a slate of 27% women is not adequate.
- We also note that if the recommendation of Metr. Gennadios as vice-moderator of the Central Committee is accepted, the Faith and Order Commission will need to nominate another person as moderator of this commission.
- Some members of the committee wished to note that some churches were not contacted regarding names for Faith and Order.

Discussion

Concern was expressed at the preponderance (40%) of Europe in the names proposed.

Dean Gadegaard accepted the concern, but pointed out that the balance Orthodox/others had to be maintained and that many Orthodox churches were located in the European region.

Concern was also expressed at the low proportion of women in the names proposed. Should the list be amended or referred back to Faith and Order?

The General Secretary sympathized with the concern, but pointed out that the list could not be amended by the Central Committee. The only options were to approve or to reject the list. The list had resulted from a long process of consultation. The former Executive Committee had raised questions about

an earlier list, and the result was the list now before the Central Committee. He appealed to the Central Committee to respect the integrity of the process and to approve the list, so that the Faith and Order Standing Commission could begin its work. He gave an assurance that a replacement would be found for Dr Cannon, for approval by the Executive Committee at its next meeting.

The Central Committee, **noting** the above comments of the Nominations Committee, voted by show of cards to **adopt** the list of members of the Faith and Order Standing Commission (two abstentions).

4.4.2 Core Group of the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism

The former Executive Committee's recommendation to the Central Committee was:

In February 2005, the Central Committee adopted the following recommendation presented by the Programme Committee in the paragraph on CWME:

that a continuing core group of up to six serving commissioners, re-nominated by their churches, affiliated bodies or wider constituency organizations, be appointed by the WCC Executive meeting in Sept. 2005/or by the new Central Committee at its first meeting immediately after the assembly.

Based on this decision, the CWME Commission, at its meeting in Athens on 17-18 May 2005, nominated the following present commissioners to be members of the CWME core group:

- Father Amos Athanasios Akunda, South Africa, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria and All Africa
- Ms Maria Koutatzi, Greece, Roman Catholic Church
- Ms (Rev.) Anna Ljung, Sweden, Swedish Missionary Council
- Rev. Dr George Mathew Nalunnakkal, India, Syrian Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East

- Rev. Dr Tito Ruben Paredes, Peru, Centro Evangélico de Misiología Andino-Amazónica
- Rev. Hesdie Samuel, Suriname, Moravian Church in Suriname

The tasks of the core group will be the following:

- Advise staff on the preparation of plans for the celebration of the 2010 centennial of the World Missionary Conference in Edinburgh;
- Present on behalf of the outgoing commission to the Aug./Sept. 2006 Central Committee a list of persons proposed as future CWME commissioners, selected from nominations received from affiliated bodies, WCC member churches and the wider constituency (in application of the CWME By-Laws);
- Assist in preparing the first meeting of the new commission.

The Executive Committee recommends that the Central Committee in its first meeting after the assembly (February 2006) appoint the CWME interim core group, to serve until the election of the new full commission at the Central Committee in August/September 2006.

The Nominations Committee had agreed by consensus to recommend to the Central Committee that it accept the recommendation.

The Central Committee voted by show of cards to **appoint** the above as the Core Group of the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism.

4.4.3 Core Group of the Bossey Board

The former Executive Committee's recommendation to the Central Committee was:

The Bossey Board, meeting in April 2005, underlined that the work of the Institute:

needs to be accompanied during the period after the 9th Assembly until the time when the new Board will be able to meet in spring 2007. The Board suggested therefore that a core group of the Bossey Board

be nominated by the Central Committee in its first meeting after the assembly (February 2006). There are already two ex-officio members on the Board: a representative of the University of Geneva and the Deputy General Secretary of the WCC who can be included among the core group of four if so wished.

The four names proposed for the core group are the following:

- Rev. Dr Wesley Ariarajah, USA, Professor of Ecumenics at Drew University (has served on the outgoing board)
- Dr Robert Welsh, USA, General Secretary Disciples Ecumenical Consultative Council (has served on the outgoing board)
- Prof. Dr Isabel Apawo Phiri, South Africa, Professor of African Theology at the School of Theology and Religion, University of KwaZulu Natal
- Prof. Dr Erlinda Senturias, Philippines, Dean of Midsayap Christian College

Prof. François Dermange (University of Geneva), Mr Georges Lemopoulos (WCC Deputy General Secretary) and Rev. Prof. Ioan Sauca (WCC, Bossey Director) will complete the composition of the core group.

The Executive Committee recommends that the Central Committee in its first meeting after the assembly (February 2006) appoint the interim core group of the Bossey Board, to serve until the election of the new full Bossey Board at Central Committee in August/September 2006 and that Dr Robert Welsh serve as convenor of the group.

The Nominations Committee had agreed by consensus to recommend to the Central Committee that it accept the recommendation.

The Central Committee voted by show of cards to **appoint** the above as the Core Group of the Bossey Board.

4.4.4 Core Group of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs

The former Executive Committee's recommendation to the Central Committee was:

The meeting of the CCIA Commission in June 2005 recommended that given the restriction in the CCIA by-laws, that amendments to the by-laws by the Central Committee have to be in consultation with the Commission, the members of the Commission offered to formally serve between the Assembly and the Central Committee in Aug./Sept. 2006, when the next CCIA is planned to be appointed, if a consultation should be required.

Since the mandates of all governing and consultative bodies will formally come to an end at the assembly, the appointment of a core group was considered a better solution. The names proposed are the following:

- Ambassador Bethuel Kiplagat, Kenya (CCIA Moderator)
- Ms Lois Dauway, USA (CCIA Vice-Moderator)
- Mr Ernie Regehr, Canada
- Mr John Langmore, Australia
- Archbishop Nifon of Targoviste, Romania
- Rev. Juan Abelardo Schvindt, Argentina
- Rev. Shirley DeWolf, Zimbabwe

The Executive Committee recommends that the Central Committee at its first meeting after the assembly (February 2006) appoint the CCIA interim core group, with the clear understanding that this group will serve only until the election of the new full commission at the Central Committee in August/September 2006.

The Nominations Committee had agreed by consensus to recommend to the Central Committee that it accept the recommendation.

The Central Committee voted by show of cards to **appoint** the above as the Core Group of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs.

5. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The General Secretary gave dates of future meetings:

Executive Committee	16-19 May 2006, in Geneva
Executive Committee	28-29 August 2006, in Geneva
Central Committee	30 August – 6 September 2006, in Geneva

He added that the minutes of the previous Central Committee meeting (15-22 February 2005) would be sent to new Central Committee members, for approval, together with the minutes of the present meeting, at the August/September meeting.

6. CLOSING ACTIONS

Bouquets of flowers were presented to the new Moderator and Vice-Moderators amid applause.

Dr Altmann closed the meeting in prayer.

APPENDIX

List of Participants

Officers

Rev. Dr Walter Altmann, Igreja Evangélica de Confissão Luterana no Brasil
Metropolitan Prof. Dr Gennadios of Sassima, Ecumenical Patriarchate
Rev. Dr Margaretha M. Hendriks-Ririmasse, Presbyterian Protestant Church
in the Moluccas
Rev. Dr Samuel Kobia, World Council of Churches

Presidents

H.B. Archbishop Anastasios of Tirana, Durrës and All Albania, Kisha
Orthodhokse Autoqefale e Shqipërisë
Mr John Doom, Eglise Protestante Maòhi
Pasteur Simon K. Dossou, Eglise protestante méthodiste du Bénin
Dr Soritua Albert Ernst Nababan, Huria Kristen Batak Protestan (HKBP)
Rev. Dr Ofelia Ortega Suárez, Presbyterian Church of Cuba
Rev. Dr Bernice Powell Jackson, United Church of Christ
Dr Mary Tanner, Church of England

Members

Ms Inger Aasa-Marklund, Svenska Kyrkan
Most Rev. Robert Aboagye-Mensah, Methodist Church Ghana
Bishop Ivan Manuel Abrahams, Methodist Church of Southern Africa
Ms Sophia Ophilia Adjeibea Adinyira, Church of the Province of West Africa
Bishop Nareg Alemejian, Armenian Apostolic Church (Holy See of Cilicia)
Rev. James Lagos Alexander, Africa Inland Church Sudan
Bishop Dr Hilarion Alfeev, Russian Orthodox Church
Mme Jeannette Akissi Aneye, Eglise protestante méthodiste unie de Côte
d'Ivoire
Rev. Judy Angleberger, Presbyterian Church (USA)
Rev. Dr Festus Ambe Asana, Presbyterian Church in Cameroon
Mr Onesimus Asiimwe, Church of the Province of Uganda

Bishop Vicken Aykazian, Armenian Apostolic Church (Holy See of Etchmiadzin)
 Bishop Samuel Robert Azariah, Church of Pakistan
 Dr Nora Bayrakdarian-Kabakian, Armenian Apostolic Church (Holy See of Cilicia)
 Ms Terauango Beneteri, Kiribati Protestant Church
 Frau Christina Biere, Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland
 H.E. Metropolitan Bishoy of Damiette, Coptic Orthodox Church
 Pfarrerin Heike Bosien, Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland
 Rt Rev. Thomas Frederick Butler, Church of England
 Rev. Sofia Ann Camnerin, Svenska Missionskyrkan
 Ms Nerrissa Celestine, Church in the Province of the West Indies
 Dr Anna May Chain, Myanmar Baptist Convention
 Archpriest Vsevolod Chaplin, Russian Orthodox Church
 Ms Meilin Chen, China Christian Council
 Rev. Rothangliani Chhangte, American Baptist Churches in the USA
 Mrs Hera Rere Clarke, Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia
 Ms Lois McCullough Dauway, United Methodist Church
 Ms Paula Devejian, Armenian Apostolic Church (Holy See of Etchmiadzin)
 Rev. Moiseracle Prince Dibeela, United Congregational Church of Southern Africa
 Rev. Fr George Dimas, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East
 Rev. Hieromonk Irinej Dobrijevic, Serbian Orthodox Church
 Pastor Carlos Duarte, Iglesia Evangélica del Rio de la Plata
 Bishop Sally Dyck, United Methodist Church
 Rt Rev. Dr Govada Dyvasirvadam, Church of South India
 Rev. Dr Fernando Enns, Vereinigung der Deutschen Mennonitengemeinden
 Rev. Tofinga Vaevalu Falani, Ekalesia Kelisiano Tuvalu E.
 Dean Anders Gadegaard, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark
 Bishop Peter Gáncs, Lutherische Kirche in Ungarn
 Rev. Ying Gao, China Christian Council
 Rev. Dr Paul Gardner, Moravian Church in Jamaica
 Rev. Dr Kondothra M. George, Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church

Archimandrite Dr Job Getcha, Ecumenical Patriarchate
 Ms Jenny Rio Rita Girsang, Gereja Kristen Protestan Simalungun (GKPS)
 Ms Anne Glynn-Mackoul, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All
 the East
 Rev. Iteffa Gobena Molte, Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus
 Dr David Robin Goodbourn, Baptist Union of Great Britain
 Father Mikhail Goundiaev, Russian Orthodox Church
 Bischof Dr Martin Hermann Hein, EKD-Evangelische Kirche von Kurhessen-
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 Rev. Wies Houweling, Protestantse Kerk in Nederland
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 Rev. William Ingram, Presbyterian Church in Canada
 Bishop Ioannis of Thermopylae, Church of Greece
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 Rev. Kathy Jones, Church in Wales
 Rev. William Premkumar Ebenezer Joseph, Methodist Church Sri Lanka
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 Rev. Micheline Kamba Jasongo, Eglise du Christ au Congo - Communauté
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 Rev. Dr Sint Kimhachandra, Church of Christ in Thailand
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 Mag. Emanuela Larentzakis, Ecumenical Patriarchate
 Mr Sanele Faasua Lavatai, Methodist Church of Samoa

Dr Niguss Legesse, Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church
 Ms Ming-Min Lin Cheng, Presbyterian Church in Taiwan
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